

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN SHORE BIRDS. ORDER LIMICOLAE (PART 2).

By Arthur Cleveland Bent. Bull. 146, U. S. National Museum. Washington, 1929. Pp. i-ix+1-412. Pls. 66. Price, \$1.00.

The eighth volume in this series is now before us. The format and plan of treatment under each species follow the last preceding volume. The present volume completes the account of the shore birds, including forty-two forms with two subspecies of the Turnstone.

It seems to be a pity that these volumes are issued in such limited editions. They are bound to be standard for some years to come, and yet the first four or five volumes of the series are even now exhausted—so we are told by persons who have been unsuccessful in securing them. When the Government goes to the expense of publishing a work of this kind the edition ought to be large enough to supply the demand longer than four or five years. The next volume is to be on the Raptores, and will more than likely be in greater demand than any of the preceding ones.—T. C. S.

DEVELOPMENT OF TEMPERATURE CONTROL IN NESTLING HOUSE WRENS. By S.

Charles Kendeigh and S. Prentiss Baldwin. Amer. Nat., Vol. LXII, May-June, 1928, pp. 249-278.

In obtaining the temperatures of young birds the authors worked with a specially devised thermocouple, supplemented with an ordinary mercury thermometer. They found that the young wrens at the time of hatching were poikilothermic, i. e., cold-blooded; and that by the time the young birds were ready to leave the nest they had become homiothermic, i. e., warm-blooded. This regulation of body temperature is attributed to four factors, viz., 1) body growth, increase of body mass in higher ratio than external body surface, 2) development of feather covering of body, 3) development of an "internal dissipating surface" through the respiratory system, 4) the metabolic function of the organism. The young bird passes from the cold-blooded to the warm-blooded condition during the nestling period. "That this fact is of significance in the phylogeny of the class is at once evident and suggests that the immediate pre-avian ancestors were cold-blooded."—T. C. S.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE AVIFAUNA OF NORTH-EASTERN LABRADOR. By Bernhard Hantzsch. Translated by M. B. A. and R. M. Anderson, and published serially in the Canadian Field-Naturalist. 1928-1929.

These contributions by Hantzsch to arctic ornithology appeared originally in 1908 in the *Journal für Ornithologie*, and have now been translated by Dr. and Mrs. R. M. Anderson, and republished in eleven installments in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist*. The eleven papers have also been combined under one cover without change in pagination. Hantzsch seems to have been one of the rare individuals who are willing to undergo the most extreme hardships for the sake of discovery. His work in north-eastern Labrador was done in 1906, and his report gives notes on ninety-eight species. We notice that the Saxon Ornithological Society recently published a sketch and portrait of Bernhard Hantzsch (*Mit. d. Verein sächsischen Ornithologen*, Sonderheft to Bd. II, April, 1929, pp. 1-28). We thank Dr. and Mrs. Anderson for a copy of the reprint.—T. C. S.